AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

- At page 5, line 10, please insert the following paragraphs:

Consistent with the invention, a method is provided for determining a constraint used for ensuring type safe linkage. The method includes creating an entry in a constraint table for a class name, creating a first entry in a loaded class cache (LCC) for the class name and a first loading object, creating a second entry in the LCC for the class name and a second loading object, and defining the constraint table entry based on the first and second entries in the LCC to ensure type safe linkage.

Further consistent with the invention, a system is provided for ensuring type safe linkage during execution of a program. The system includes a memory including instructions for performing a process for identifying a first class that makes a symbolic reference to an attribute contained in a second class, instructions for performing a process for imposing a constraint associated with the referenced attribute, and instructions for performing a process for verifying when the program is executed that the symbolic reference complies with the constraint. The system also includes a processor for executing instructions included in the memory to ensure type safe linkage during execution of the program.

Further consistent with the invention, a computer-readable storage medium is provided including instructions for performing a method, when executed by a processor, for determining a constraint used for ensuring type

safe linkage. The method includes creating an entry in a constraint table for a class name, creating a first entry in a loaded class cache (LCC) for the class name and a first loading object, creating a second entry in the LCC for the class name and a second loading object, and defining the constraint table entry based on the first and second entries in the LCC to ensure type safe linkage.